

FALL 2016 BANQUETS

Challenging testimonies, beautiful music, great food and wonderful fellowship!
To make your reservation for one of the following events, contact Kim in the
COM office at 717-591-3500.

■ Bradford, PA area luncheon

Friday, September 23, 12:00 noon
Evans Memorial U.M. Church
Lewis Run, PA

■ Dubois, PA area brunch

Saturday, September 24, 9:30 a.m.
Clarion Inn
DuBois, PA

■ Philadelphia, PA area banquet

Thursday, October 6, 6:30 p.m.
Drexelbrook
Drexel Hill, PA



CHINA OUTREACH MINISTRIES
Staff Conference
May 2000

THE PANDA BEARER

友愛中華
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Giving Christ to China's Future Leaders

July 2016

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Growing in Christ
COM staff gather at
the 2016 annual staff
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Thoughts from the President



Overcoming Obstacles to Faith

In our last edition, I shared with you the results of our research regarding what factors encouraged Chinese students and scholars who have come to America to become disciples of Jesus Christ. The top answer was the loving relationships of Christians who connected with them and helped them in a new land. They mentioned, over and over again, the impact of seeing something in the lives of Christians who reached out to help them.

What obstacles made it difficult for these students to become disciples of Jesus? I promised that I would share with you in this edition the responses we received. The top two answers were:

- **Christians behaving badly** – bad attitudes and bad behavior
- **Too much pressure** to make a faith commitment

One comment made was, “Some Christians don’t behave well outside the church.” Another person simply observed that they were “not loving each other.” One felt pressured and said in regards to Christians, “They were over-zealous and even appeared to be interfering with my private life.” And another commented, “Some Christians were too eager to evangelize, and, in the process, give people too much pressure.”

There were also personal obstacles shared that the students faced in coming to follow Jesus. These were:

- The desire to **remain faithful** to their own culture and background
- Concerns of how returning to China as a Christian could impact their lives
- What **family members will think** and how will they respond

One student said, “I was raised as an atheist with the typical communist education. I never believed there was a God.” And another stated, “My education since childhood formed my mentality of self-reliance and self-strength. I firmly believed that our future is in our own hands by working hard, getting a good education and good jobs.”

It is a challenge for us fallen human beings to meet the deep spiritual needs of those who have been taught that there is no God. It is not only difficult; it is impossible without the working of the Holy Spirit. We need to continue to pray for each other – that God will help us show His light, not leading others away from Him but to Him. Remember, even those who gave these answers eventually became Christians – so God did get through to them in spite of the obstacles. But neither should we excuse ourselves; we are called to be “Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us” (2 Corinthians 5:20). We need to prayerfully surrender to Him and be faithful to share the Gospel in season and out of season. It is God who works in us to do His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

Glen Osborn, COM President

THE PANDA BEARER

July 2016

The Panda Bearer is published quarterly by China Outreach Ministries.

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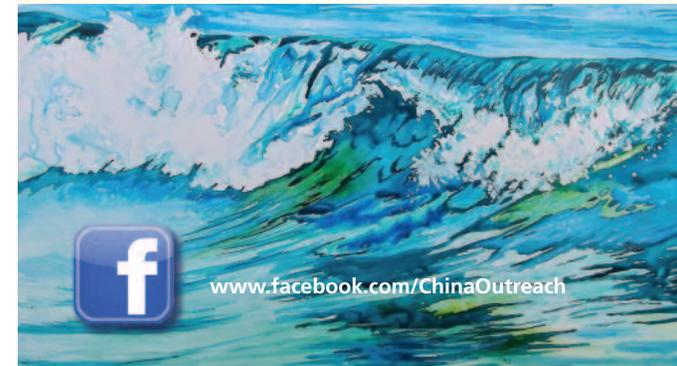
Italicized names have been changed to protect students and scholars.

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From Tom and Kathy Lindstrom, University of Minnesota

Pray for "TF" who returned to China last fall. He is married and has a child who is raised by grandparents in another city. "TF" was in a Bible study and also

From one of our workers, University of Maryland

One of our scholars asked for an extension on her project and recently got her final approval. That is the good news. The bad news is that she only has four and a half mont

From Chi Kao, University of California, Berkeley

I have come back safe and sound from my three-week China trip. Surprisingly, I got to teach two classes - one to about one hundred undergraduate students for over



The Tough Questions

At UC Berkeley, Chi Kao faces difficult questions concerning faith.



“Could I as a Communist Party member believe in God?”

Submitted by Chi Kao, University of California, Berkeley

Chi Kao's small group discussion ended. Tim pointed to his wife, May, and said, "She wants to believe in God." Chi remembers May turned bright red.

May is a visiting scholar, and Tim is staying in the States to take care of her and their five-year-old son. This past Easter, Tim accepted Jesus and was baptized. That same March, Tim invited Chi Kao to Sunday night dinners in order for her to lead an investigative Bible study with his family as well as three other families living in the same apartment building.

Chi is part of a two-person COM team that ministers to Chinese students and scholars at the University of California, Berkeley. She is thankful for a passionate, diverse and bilingual team of volunteers. Her team continues to see their weekly outreach meeting have an active attendance made up of visiting scholars who are teachers from universities all over China. These teachers are also bringing their family members.

May's blushing was either from nervousness or excitement. May turned to Chi and asked, "Could I as a Communist Party member believe in God?" Chi said to May, "Only you should answer that question. This is between you and God." Their conversation started there. A few minutes later, Frank, another visiting scholar, walked by and asked what the two were discussing. May repeated her question. Frank laughed. Of course she could believe in God. Frank then sat down and also began to ask Chi questions about God.

At present, this is a story without an end. While Frank had started to express interest in joining the Sunday night group, he told Chi that many questions arose from his personal Bible study. In addition, Frank sent Chi the table of contents from a book he read listing five disputes regarding Christianity:

1. How can there be a loving and kind God when there are evils and sufferings in the world?
2. Since miracles are supernatural and conflicting with science, no miracle can be real.
3. Since Evolution has explained life, there is no need to believe in God.
4. God killed countless innocent people, so He is not worthy to be worshiped.
5. It is too bold to claim that Jesus is the only way to God.

Please pray for the ongoing spiritual battles in the lives of Frank and May and every intellectual in this dynamic and complex group. Please pray for sincere hearts in search of truth. Please pray for Chi and her volunteers. Please pray that this story would end in Christ. ■



I do not believe in God

“I keep trying to get a job,” said a very pregnant Kate during Joe and Laura Sullivan’s Thursday English class. After recently getting her Ph.D., Kate thought that she would be able to work to support her husband until he earned his own Ph.D. Kate sighed, “But I haven’t. I think I’m a loser.”

Joe and Laura Sullivan work as COM staff at the University of California, Davis. UC Davis sits just an hour north-east of UC Berkeley and the San Francisco Bay Area. Joe and Laura have served with COM 11 years and at UC Davis since last November. Joe and Laura say that the reason they love serving with COM is because they get to share the love of God with people who don’t expect it.

“Laura told Kate that she too had been an atheist at one point in her life.”

Following that Thursday English class, Joe and Laura received an invitation from Kate to drop by her house for dumplings. While the three sat together eating homemade dumplings, Joe and Laura told Kate the reason for their hope. After listening to the Sullivans talk about Jesus’ love, Kate replied that she does not believe in God. Kate spoke calmly, without any edge in her voice—as if she was describing the weather.

Joe and Laura say that this is a common trait they find in their relationships with Chinese students and scholars. “We have learned that when Chinese friends like Kate say, ‘I do not believe in God’ it is not as if to say, ‘Christians should just leave me to my belief’ as we Americans might hear it. Often Chinese students and scholars are just saying that there is a lot of groundwork to be laid before they place trust in any deity.”

As they sat and enjoyed dumplings, Laura told Kate that she too had been an atheist at one point in her life. Kate listened as Laura told her story of experiencing God’s transforming love, peace and comfort.

What do success and fulfillment mean to a scholar like Kate? To her, they are defined as working in her field of study. With no job offers, naturally she feels hopeless. Please pray that Kate will come to know and trust the God of love. ■

Making dumplings at the church Chinese New Year outreach party.

Turning Points

Looking at the lives of Aunt Lu and Aunt Fay, JingJing observes how turning points lead to transformation.

Do you enjoy seeing the transformation of a caterpillar into a butterfly? It is made up of an amazing series of turning points. Likewise, turning points in the lives of Chinese seekers mean that they are getting closer to God. Whether they say yes to a Bible study or experience more of God's love or ultimately make the decision to follow Christ, each is an incredible turning point in their lives.

Aunt Lu is a Communist Party member, but she does not believe in it. She says that as a child, "I used to read novels under my blanket," and she even bought a Bible once back home in China. Widowed eight years ago, Aunt Lu lived with a great deal of depression and grief. But she says that it was a friendship with a Christian that helped mend her heart.

Aunt Lu would visit America annually to see her daughter at Penn State University, but this year's visit would be life changing. When JingJing invited Aunt Lu to their English class, she met Kirk and Julie, two of JingJing's teammates in ministry. "It was Aunt Lu's first time learning English from native English speakers," JingJing says. When they read The Jesus Storybook Bible for the first time, Aunt Lu wanted to embrace God's love. After getting to know JingJing and her colleagues at Penn State, Aunt Lu received Christ before returning to China.

Another woman visiting her daughter, Aunt Fay, is also a party member, almost retired. JingJing says that Aunt Fay has been exploring Christianity while visiting the States. After she returned to China, Aunt Lu posted an

Submitted by JingJing Rachel Lin, Penn State University

article on Chinese social media one evening about several beautiful Bible verses. JingJing shared the post, which led to Aunt Fay sharing the post. Soon after, JingJing asked Aunt Fay about all of this. Aunt Fay said, "If I knew what Communism really was, I would not have joined it." JingJing asked why. Aunt Fay replied, "It is emptiness."

Please pray for the spiritual turning points in the life of Aunt Fay. Pray that she will be closer to receiving God soon. As JingJing says, "Pray that I can best share Jesus with her and many other Chinese here at Penn State." ■

From age to age

Nuke and Vie Shim serve with COM at the University of Waterloo, Ontario. Along with a team of volunteers, Nuke and Vie lead a discipleship group, host outreach events and plan outings all in order to share Christ with Chinese students and scholars. Reflecting on the past half-century, Nuke Shim shares how Christ has provided.



56 YEARS AGO

“Easter 1960, God gloriously opened my mind and spiritual eyes to recognize Jesus as the Son of God who loved me so much He sacrificed Himself for me. As a result, I fell in love with Jesus. He has ruled in my heart since. I thank the Lord for the church, the fellowship and the individuals who nurtured my new faith and set me on the path of healthy spiritual growth and ministry.”

50 YEARS AGO

“I married my sweetheart who has partnered with me through every situation through which God has taken us. Four wonderful (not perfect!) children and six (perfect) grandchildren later we are still ‘trucking’ along by the grace of God. Like the Apostle Paul, we have experienced both being in need and, at other times, being provided for abundantly (Philippians 4).”

43 YEARS AGO

“With four children (all under the age of six), we packed up and left our tropical island for a wintry Canada! What an adventure it has been. We are grateful that from Newfoundland to Victoria Island, God has given us friends and ministry partners to love and challenge us.”

25 YEARS AGO

“God clearly called us to give our lives away for the Chinese. Before this, we had ministered to students, in churches, among business professionals and in administrative functions. We are now in the most exciting phase of our lives ministering to mainland Chinese students and scholars in Waterloo. We are humbled by how we have been privileged to represent Jesus in these diverse situations.”

TODAY

“A few friends have asked, are you retired? No, we are not. We will never really ‘retire.’ We are still praying that the fruit of our ministry will last and will impact the nations of the world by bringing others into His kingdom. We want to continue to live by faith, not by sight, just as we started out.” ■

To support the ministry of COM’s workers, please visit
chinaoutreach.org/support-us.

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CREATING A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY with China Outreach Ministries is an opportunity to make a significant difference in the future outreach of COM and provide you with income for life. A gift annuity is created when you transfer an asset (such as cash, stocks or other property) to COM in return for payments for life to you, another person or for two persons (for example, you and your spouse). Each payment is fixed based on the age of the person(s) receiving payments and can result in a sizable tax deduction. See rates for payments based on age below:

A supporter of COM can give cash, stock (with possible capital gains savings) or other agreed-upon property to fund the gift annuity. Then, based on your age or the ages of both people (if it is a two-life annuity), a rate is calculated and paid to you monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually for life. There is also an income tax deduction and a portion of your payments will be tax-free.

ONE PERSON	
AGE	RATE
68	4.9%
70	5.1
78	6.4
80	6.8
88	8.4

For more information, contact Jeff Krimmel in the development office at 717-591-3500 or email him at jkrimmel@chinaoutreach.net.

Thank YOU!

Gift Bearers

Special gifts and contributions to the ministry of COM

In Memory of

Ruth Hess

Mrs. Lee Harris

Herbert Lippy

Mr. Herb Lippy

Hongyan Pei

Mr. Liwen Chen

Mr. Charlie Shearer

Mr. & Mrs. Lal Shroy

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